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National Geographic Magazine

Vol. X MARCH, 1899

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By Hon. David J. Brewer, LL.D.,

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States

In returning the development of our country we are led to a [illegible] of the forces which have shaped the character of the nation. We cannot but [illegible] the rude strength of that marvelous time of two often manifested of the elemental sources of our national life—so near to nature, so little affected by the art or thought of man.

A great continent, an unknown wilderness, rich with every gift of nature, lies waiting for the men who are to awaken it from its sleep of ages. To come across the sea [illegible] days in harbors and navigate its broad rivers, and then sleep on, for the strangers come to be but a gleam among the sunbeams, not to make it twenty [illegible] signs of human life, but at last are [illegible] to be a [illegible] of a nation—a [illegible] of a people, for while the land lies waste and men are [illegible] degradation, [illegible] exist. When and [illegible] people are wedded [illegible] of settlement, when [illegible] the power to satisfy the domestic [illegible] [illegible] wants of society are set in motion, the economic and [illegible] forces begin their operations, and the process of national [illegible] has commenced.

I. THE STRUGGLE FOR THE CONTINENT

[illegible] currents of human history and to offer a hope to new [illegible]

yet for more than a century after the voyages of Columbus there were but two settlements within the present limits of the United States, and both of Spanish origin. The Atlantic slope, whose streams flow eastward from the Alleghany mountains, abound[illegible] in safe harbors and landlocked bays, in whose restless waters the ships of the early French and English navigators found shelter after their long and perilous voyages, but the dense forest reaching to the water's edge made the shore seem unattractive, and the [illegible] passed southward to the fancied lands of gold and precious stones. It was with surprise that the early [illegible] charted these southern shores barring the way to India, for it was believed that north of Florida was supposed to be an isthmus, the open sea led on to the Indian ocean. A waterway across the continent was diligently sought, for the belief that America, if not an island, was but a promontory of Asia [illegible] spread by ascending the James, the [illegible] to emerge upon the south sea. Among his commissions was to seek a new route to China by ascending the Chickahominy.

When the opening of the seventeenth century were planted the first English colonies in America, [illegible] and pilgrims, wanderers going forth in frail ships to find a new home, and holding as their titles the charters from King James, landed at Jamestown and on Plymouth Rock.[illegible] While [illegible] [illegible] the months were spent in [illegible] and [illegible] their time surveying [illegible] the council [illegible] [illegible] were far [illegible]. It mattered little that the London and Plymouth companies were granted lands overlapping by three degrees of latitude, for as neither was allowed to settle within a hundred miles of the other [illegible] of building [illegible]. When, to rectify an error, the London company received new charters, they were described as extending [illegible] from Point Comfort along the Atlantic coast in each direction [illegible] north and south, [illegible] the land from sea to sea, west and northwest—a phrase which was afterward held to give to Virginia the greater part of North America.

There was no contest for possession of the continent in those early days. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] The French went [illegible] and came to the gulf and river of St Lawrence for their king and built their rude towns around the shores of Acadia. The English settlements were spread like a fringe of communities, straggling between the sea and the wilderness. There is something rather pathetic in the contrast of this great dark forest continent, guarding the rich treasures of the vast interior by grim sentinels of gloomy forest, confronting with its frown that narrow, halting strip of civilization, whose frail homes, in spite of early poverty and weakness, were destined to become the permanent masters. For a hundred years it was an unending, unequal contest. A handful of log houses clustered about the fortified church, a few acres of cultivated land not far away, little groups of curiously clad figures laboring in the fields with rifles near at hand, the infrequent arrival of a storm-beaten ship—these were the only signs of the coming transformation which for generations met the sharp glance of the stealthy savage as he crept to the edge of the forest to observe the advance of the white man's life.

The map of the Atlantic slope in 1750 reveals the cramped and precarious condition of the English colonies. Considered as a group, they were wedged closely between French territory on the one side and the sea on the other. Beginning with Acadia on the north, the French pressed upon the western limits of New England, their frontiers touched those of the Dutch, then sweeping around the home of the powerful Iroquois Indians who occupied the greater part of what is now the State of New York, New France followed the line of the Alleghanies, hemmed in the English settlements and cut them off from the West, and stretching along the whole western boundary of Virginia to what was then British Carolina, covering the present states of South Carolina and Georgia, beyond which lay Spanish Florida and the far-off Mexico. What France lost in [illegible] as a barrier to the further encroachment of [illegible] by the English, leaving them only a narrow strip of coast, the [illegible] the Swedes effectually separated the northern and southern colonies from each other. [illegible] allied with the French, whose leaders [illegible] and mingled freely with them, were a constant menace to the safety of the English settlements, and furnished a savage horde of mercenaries for advancing the ambitious schemes of France.

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* See map of New France.

Considering the maps alone, it would seem as if the French power was concentrated upon this continent as to possess the keys of its destiny. But there are many facts which show that the problem of national life, as it affected the first colonies, was temperamental quality of men. The French colonies were military, presidial, and very paternal. The English threw their infant colonies into the wilderness to fight for a way for themselves, with no other heritage than liberty. In Canada the French colonist might not buy a house or hire a house or own land, or engage in any trade or business without the supervision of public officers, or make a will without the supervision of public officers, or marry without the consent of the government. In fact, as old Cotton Mather said, the English colonists could not leave behind them their institutions, laws, and liberties. Land grants were limited, and the use of every kind was forbidden, and the expressions of a free press were prevented. Political parties and factions were unknown. Thus, the French colonies were stricken with paralysis, and instead of looking to the interior for strength, they looked to the mother country for help and support. When, at last, the death-struggle came, it was not to result from internal government, but from the aid and resources which were forthcoming to war.

The map of 1763, showing the domain of France in the New World, a little and twenty years after the single-handed power, with its provinces, and particularly its speaking population, fast disappeared. The Dutch, heirs of their ancestors, who had long thus secured the Swedes, were in turn swept from the Hudson, and with them went the last vestige of the Netherlands. Leaving the Spanish, the French, and the English in possession of the world, the Spanish were soon to lose their power, and the French were to lose their asylum and school. The English colonies sent our great thinkers to develop the North American continent, and our worthy ancestors, as we always loved, also still live in the Eastern States and the North. However, even to my New England people, I say, John Adams, when he says, "of all the colonies of Europe, the French seem to have the most to lose."

New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware comprehend the tract of country which extends from the lowlands fishing villages of Maine to the rich and plentiful country of Georgia. Between the sea and the Alleghanies lies a wide plain. Self-government, even in the colonies of the French, was

[illegible] for their pretensions as the mother country. [illegible]

[illegible] into the sea, but [illegible] contestants for supremacy, continue to sweep westward to drive the French [illegible] from the continent forever.

[illegible] conceived a grandiose design for the possession of the vast region west of the Mississippi. Among those of the seventeenth century a brave and hardy explorer, La Salle, sailing down the waters of Canada, which had [illegible] to be a chain of France westward to Mexico, the [illegible] valley of the Mississippi, after traversing the Great Lakes and planted a French settlement in Louisiana. Thus Lawrence, the Great Lakes, the Mississippi, these four great natural highways for the progress of the great French [illegible] progress toward the fulfillment of the exploited dream of empire. [illegible] the center power of the French nation was [illegible] and those were [illegible]. At the close of the seventeenth century the French in all the wide region claimed by them numbered only twelve thousand souls, while the English had grown to a population [illegible] in New England and New York alone. "The paternal providence of Versailles," says Parkman, "[illegible] of the [illegible] sent to the colonists of Louisiana, [illegible] a gift of twenty marriageable girls described as "not [illegible] in virtue and purity and [illegible] to work." [illegible] cargo of girls to serve New France. The forces of the [illegible] were [illegible] to the French, while [illegible] were [illegible] "[illegible] sent out to marry the [illegible]," and [illegible] the government to find them [illegible] protection and good [illegible].

A weak chain of forts [illegible] points, [illegible] by presents [illegible] from the Iroquois, was the only hold that [illegible] gained the long interval of wilderness between the St. Lawrence and the Gulf of Mexico. The governor of New France, La Jonquière, [illegible] that the coming of [illegible] to Quebec was [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] of the [illegible] of the [illegible] to populate the [illegible] country. But the thought came [illegible] too late. [illegible] was [illegible], [illegible] with the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] and New France was [illegible] from the map of North America.

France [illegible] in Europe, [illegible] left [illegible] of her

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

rewards of a rude existence, while they themselves moved on in the path of adventure. It was the compactness of the English colonies, their industry, their frugality, and their prolific race [illegible] influence of [illegible] the face of North America and made the triumph of Wolfe the greatest turning point as yet recorded in modern history.

France emerged from the Seven Years War exhausted, humbled, and [illegible]. Her armies [illegible], her navies scattered, her possessions overrun throughout the world. The [illegible] of that war [illegible] left the map of Europe [illegible] unaltered, but the map of America was [illegible] changed by the Treaty of Paris.[1] France [illegible] from the continent, and therefore [illegible] possessions in America only a few scattered islands. Spain relinquished Florida [illegible] the Mississippi [illegible] that great waterway, and the [illegible] territory [illegible] were [illegible] under the [illegible] of the [illegible] crown. By the Peace of Paris the American continent was thus divided between England and Spain; the work of territorial [illegible] to a single power between the Atlantic and the Mississippi was [illegible], and the conditions for the [illegible] of a great nation in the vast area were [illegible] borders [illegible] political [illegible] which [illegible] the [illegible].

The [illegible] of the war was the [illegible] of [illegible] American [illegible], which [illegible] brought [illegible] common interests and common privileges. [illegible] was of English [illegible] world was drawn from every European country. The [illegible] Germans [illegible] Swedes, the [illegible] Huguenots, the [illegible] and the [illegible] were already [illegible] and had acquired the [illegible]

[illegible] fled three hundred years [illegible] that the settlement [illegible]. The [illegible] of America [illegible] England, [illegible] to the whole of Europe.

[illegible] STATES

It is an interesting fact that the year 1763, the date of the Treaty of Paris, marks also the beginning of that movement

[illegible] war [illegible] in the Declaration of [illegible]. The King and the Parliament, [illegible] of the great [illegible] to the [illegible] power of France, [illegible] to regard them as a [illegible] sources of revenue for a [illegible] the enormous [illegible] which Great Britain [illegible] extensive [illegible] empire. The first [illegible] was that [illegible] pay the cost of the war. The latter, on the other hand, had made great sacrifices for the past [illegible] war [illegible] a large expenditure of [illegible] money. [illegible] had been [illegible] and [illegible], and many of the colonies and the [illegible] were [illegible]. The [illegible] of [illegible] they [illegible] not only [illegible] principle but [illegible], by their [illegible] toward the [illegible] of [illegible] or [illegible] they had bravely fought. [illegible] 1774, the [illegible] of the colonies toward France [illegible] war. They were thirteen separate commonwealths, [illegible] and political organizations, possessing [illegible] except the general use of the [illegible] the same king, and the memories of [illegible] on the French and [illegible] wars. Twenty years [illegible] Franklin had proposed a [illegible] for the common defense, [illegible] long before the Revolution [illegible] severed into the [illegible] parts, representing [illegible] over the [illegible], "Join or die," in the days of the Albany convention, [illegible] considerable interest in the other mainland [illegible]. Such a union, however, had never been seriously [illegible], for it was rejected by the colonies, who feared it might [illegible] create a new master, [illegible] was too dominant. But Franklin [illegible] from England [illegible] Massachusetts Assembly, [illegible] "The security of an empire depends in a measure on the union of its parts, but on their [illegible] for the [illegible] exertion of their combined force," and he [illegible] the proposed [illegible] a general congress for [illegible] to make a [illegible] assertion of the rights of the colonies and to engage [illegible] with each other never to grant and to the [illegible] a new general war. In [illegible] those rights were [illegible] by the King and both Houses of Parliament.

Accordingly a Congress, styling itself "*the delegates appointed by the several provinces of North America*," assembled at Philadelphia on the 5th of September, 1774. There was no law or precedent for such a meeting, and it was not even pretended that the colonial assemblies and the legislatures had any right to unite with each other in

Parliament, and as if in some measure to bring it into force of law, the declaration had been ratified in the name of "the people." It was, in effect, the declaration of a new sovereignty. Patrick Henry justified it on the ground that the "colonial government in Virginia was at an end," that "all America was thrown into one mass and was in a state of nature," "We are now your fellow-subjects, your brethren, your companions and your friends." The distinction between King, nation, "government," New Yorkers and New Englanders are no more. "We are now a free people." This theory was premature, however, for Congress had not been appointed as direct representative of the people. It was composed of delegates of sovereign colonies which had just been released from allegiance to the British Crown. Still it was felt that the rights were participated in and forced the people to recognize the Congress as the representative of the people. It was soon to assert and be recognized as possessing the sovereignty of the people, however, anticipating the progress of events, and, by intervening to legislate to represent the whole territory claimed by the British Crown in America, the people's sovereignty was in the assembly of the "representatives of the United States." The proposal to call a convention which had become the revolt of a great against the presence of an island. Washington and Pelham Aix, commanded the surrender of Fort Lucas, "in the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress," he uttered the watchword of the American Revolution.

It was only when it appeared that the colonies, for which Congress had declared the rights of Englishmen were in fact sentiments of a nation, "free and independent," that the Declaration of Independence was adopted. Thus the Declaration of Independence, Congress had "all powers of war and peace, coining money, raising armies, and receiving pledges of fealty from the people, owing allegiance to the United States." It was in the name of such authority. Thus the same power which declared independence gave to the common government and the authority which it exercised. The colonies owed their existence as independent commonwealths, not to Congress, but to the parliaments and conventions, but to the united action of all combined. Whatever sovereignty they as separately claimed was wholly derived from the union between them. As no such union was but an empty name,

together they were a sovereign power. It was as a continental force that the people won their independence, and the Nation is in reality older than the States.

All this was felt even at the moment, and on the day the committee for drafting the Declaration of Independence was appointed another committee was directed to prepare the form of a confederation. The power which declared independence [illegible] were treaties [illegible] alliance [illegible] sion, except as its acts were ratified by the force of the [illegible].

[illegible] between the Declaration and [illegible] in effect [illegible] thirteen sovereignties in place of one [illegible]. Each of these new states claimed all the rights granted by its own fundamental laws and [illegible] its share of the power [illegible] the Crown. What, then, was to be the disposition of those "crown lands" which were not within the actual bounds of any colony, although originally included in their borders—that vast territory lying between the Allegheny mountains and the Mississippi, which had been won in battle from the crown of France?

Six states—Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia—by reason of their charter or [illegible] treaties, claimed the ownership of all the lands westward of their actual boundaries as far as the Mississippi river. It is true that a royal proclamation had been issued in 1763 prohibiting colonial governors from granting patents of land beyond the sources of the rivers flowing into the Atlantic, and [illegible] the "Crown lands," as they were called, north [illegible] were annexed to the royal province of Quebec; but these were regarded [illegible] as [illegible] encroachments. For had they not [illegible] sacrificed lives and money to conquer this vast country from New France? The other states, however, bounded [illegible] boundaries, protested against these large pretensions [illegible] maintaining that possessions which had been acquired by the force and sacrifice of all should not be appropriated for the aggrandizement of a part. New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, [illegible] a share of this great territory, saw in the claims of the "landed states" not only an evident injustice in [illegible] them a part in the fruits of a common victory but a menace to the equilibrium of the states by the [illegible] development of some

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

In 1780 New York authorized the limitation of her western boundaries and the cession of her vacant lands to the United States. "She ceased to use the language of royal grants and discarded the principle of succession. She came forth from among her parchments into the forum of conscience, in presence of the whole American people, and recognizing the justice of their claim to territories gained by their common efforts, to secure the lasting blessing of union, foregoing all reward for her own, she submitted to the nation the determination of her western boundaries, and ceded to the nation for the general benefit her vast claims to unoccupied territories."

Nor can we deny to all the states a share in the honor of a wise and generous compromise. For the establishment of the Union the smaller states entrusted their liberties to the keeping of the greater, and the greater in a spirit of generosity first consecrated their large inheritance to the common good, and shared the honor of a brilliant destiny with new states yet to rise in the firmament of liberty. Especial praise should be accorded to Virginia, for "her great cession of the territory northwest of the Ohio is the greatest cession of territory in the history of the world ever voluntarily made by a powerful state able to defend its claims," and led the other states to follow her example, and thus made possible the local governments and national development of the West, while she averted the jealousy and possibly the anarchy and bloodshed, that might have followed the assertion [illegible]

II. THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN

When the long struggle for independence was concluded, it was not to be doubted that the young Republic would hold out with stubborn insistence for the recognition of its sovereignty over the territory east of the Mississippi. After the battles of the war which ended with Yorktown, were to come the battles of [illegible] were to be fought with an equal skill and courage [illegible] and pride of colonial supremacy which had dominated Great Britain when the Treaty of Paris was made with the French were now to be disputed by the colonies themselves. Instructed to claim the whole of the territory south of the St. Lawrence and east of the Mississippi, Franklin proposed, in the outset, that England should voluntarily cede Canada in order that its lands might be sold to raise a fund for the compensation of Americans whose property had been destroyed, to which Lord

[illegible] giving away a [illegible] because it had already been [illegible]

A [illegible] has been directed to observe the [illegible] we now know that the most moderate [illegible]

the West was the territory of free and independent nations of Indians, whose sovereignty over their soil should be considered [illegible]

[illegible] a vast [illegible] territory between India and the West [illegible] to the China trade, [illegible] by an ancient family of [illegible] and a people [illegible]

[illegible] with England [illegible] prove the [illegible] of a [illegible] [illegible] Vergennes [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible]

[illegible] a part of the [illegible] of Spain, as it is also of France." [illegible] Vergennes [illegible]

[illegible] the negotiations [illegible] and a [illegible] that [illegible] for the [illegible]

We are not surprised therefore, that the French court sustained the idea of Arandu,[18] and wished to [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Spain, while massing to the westward and Spain [illegible] the Indians and [illegible], leaving the territory of the colonies only a narrow fringe pendant to the broad snowy mantle of the [illegible] Canada, torn from its own shoulders in 1763, and [illegible] the dark hope of [illegible] [illegible] the savage [illegible] [illegible] victory. Regarding the fisheries as "a great nursery for seamen," and seeing in them a school for naval supremacy on the ocean, France joined England in seeking to deprive the colonies of their hereditary [illegible] on the banks of Newfoundland and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The [illegible] of Vergennes [illegible] for the future [illegible] of the Mississippi valley and the possession of the Far West [illegible] to Spain. He regarded "the extravagance of the American views and pretensions, and [illegible] the colonies [illegible] [illegible] be refuted."

[illegible] the [illegible], the American commissioners [illegible] want the peace without [illegible] of the interests of their people [illegible] with a vote of [illegible] Congress [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] counsel, they were brave and wise enough to [illegible] every [illegible]. The treaty of Versailles not only acknowledged the independence of the United States, secured the right to the fisheries, and [illegible] the free navigation of the Mississippi, but [illegible] the American [illegible], the [illegible], and [illegible] vast [illegible] for the United States. It was one of the greatest victories in the history of diplomacy [illegible]. The Great Lakes and the Mississippi became American highways, [illegible] to the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific was opened to American enterprise. The peace was [illegible] with [illegible] of [illegible] of the United States, [illegible] was [illegible]

"No pent up [illegible] contracts our powers,
The whole [illegible] continent is ours."

The [illegible] of the victory was [illegible] by [illegible] to [illegible] of Gibraltar, and [illegible] by [illegible] Federal [illegible]. A [illegible] [illegible] liberty of conscience, the [illegible] of estate [illegible] a new population [illegible] as well as the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of the new government, was [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

laughingstock of Europe. To many it seemed that a return to the protection of England was the only way of salvation, for the paper money had become worthless, the fires of local insurrection burst forth from the ashes of discontent, interstate commerce was destroyed by petty frontier exactions, and the great experiment of independence seemed doomed to end in anarchy.

We cannot here review the distress and anxiety of that troubled time, we can only briefly indicate the unexpected cure. The possession of a national domain, composed of territory ceded by the states to the confederation, proved to be the anchor of the Union. Over this area Congress had exercised a certain degree of power, and it was the only sphere in which the sovereignty of the Confederation could assert itself. In the vast unpopulated stretches of the great Northwest, Congress, by the ordinance of 1784 and the later ordinance of 1787, exercised the right of eminent domain, ruled by its laws and [illegible] the bond to [illegible]. The future states were bound to make their own in harmony with the great principles of freedom, education, and suffrage laid down by Congress, and under no circumstances could they ever be separated from the Union. "I doubt," says Daniel Webster, "whether one single law of any lawgiver, ancient or modern, has produced effects of more distinct, marked and lasting character than the ordinance of 1787."

Thus grew [illegible] unobserved, yet as Madison remarked, "without the least color of constitutional authority," a national sovereignty which justified recognition of itself by the formation of the United States. The Articles of Confederation had contemplated no such exercise of power, and the domain was never authorized by ratification of the States, but the necessity of governing that vast territory and [illegible] upon Congress [illegible] into view, the great and decisive fact that a nation had been created, [illegible] its full significance, [illegible] rights [illegible] the whole people [illegible], and could express their conviction in the potent phrase, "We the people of the United States."

The treaty of 1783 stipulated that the navigation of the Mississippi from its source to the ocean should be forever free and open to the citizens of the United States. Spain, however, who was not a party to this agreement, asserted an exclusive control over the river [illegible] and the right of free navigation. This [illegible]

[illegible]

All [illegible] their [illegible] down the great river road and [illegible] came to [illegible] and [illegible] emancipations [illegible] Congress.

Congress could not deny their plea, and yet was not strong enough to compel compliance. The need of [illegible] which should bind the states together was evident. The great Northwest must be saved. A new vision burst upon the American people. "A great and independent fund of revenue," says Madison, "is passing into the hands of a single body of men who can raise troops to an indefinite number and appropriate money to their support for an indefinite period of time. [illegible] Yet no blame has been whispered, no alarm has been sounded." If such things were already existing in the Union, a form of sovereign power, why not give it guarantees? Why not provide the nation with an adequate constitutional base? Under these circumstances was convened the [illegible] of 1787.

The lands between the Alleghanies and the Mississippi were seen to be the key to the situation. They were the old vantage ground of France. [illegible] was moving toward them and in a few years there would come into [illegible] its empire. They belonged to the people, not to the states, and as a common possession [illegible] population together [illegible] compact [illegible]. The [illegible] of the [illegible] new patriotism and flooded the [illegible] In the new [illegible] there were to be two kinds of government to express and two kinds of interest that existed,—that of the states, preserving their [illegible] their traditions, and [illegible] government [illegible] their laws and liberties, and that of the Nation, [illegible] them all together [illegible] union, preserving the common [illegible] of their people, giving them fraternity [illegible] a common road, sweeping away the local barriers to trade and intercourse, gathering the whole people into one [illegible] of one government and sheltering [illegible] under the [illegible] of a common nationality whose protection [illegible] extended over all alike.

No wonder that the Constitution has been called "the best specimen of constructive statesmanship that the world has ever seen." It has the character of universality about it like the great laws of nature. It was [illegible] of history [illegible] revolutionary [illegible] yet was [illegible] growth [illegible] in view of [illegible] and wonder

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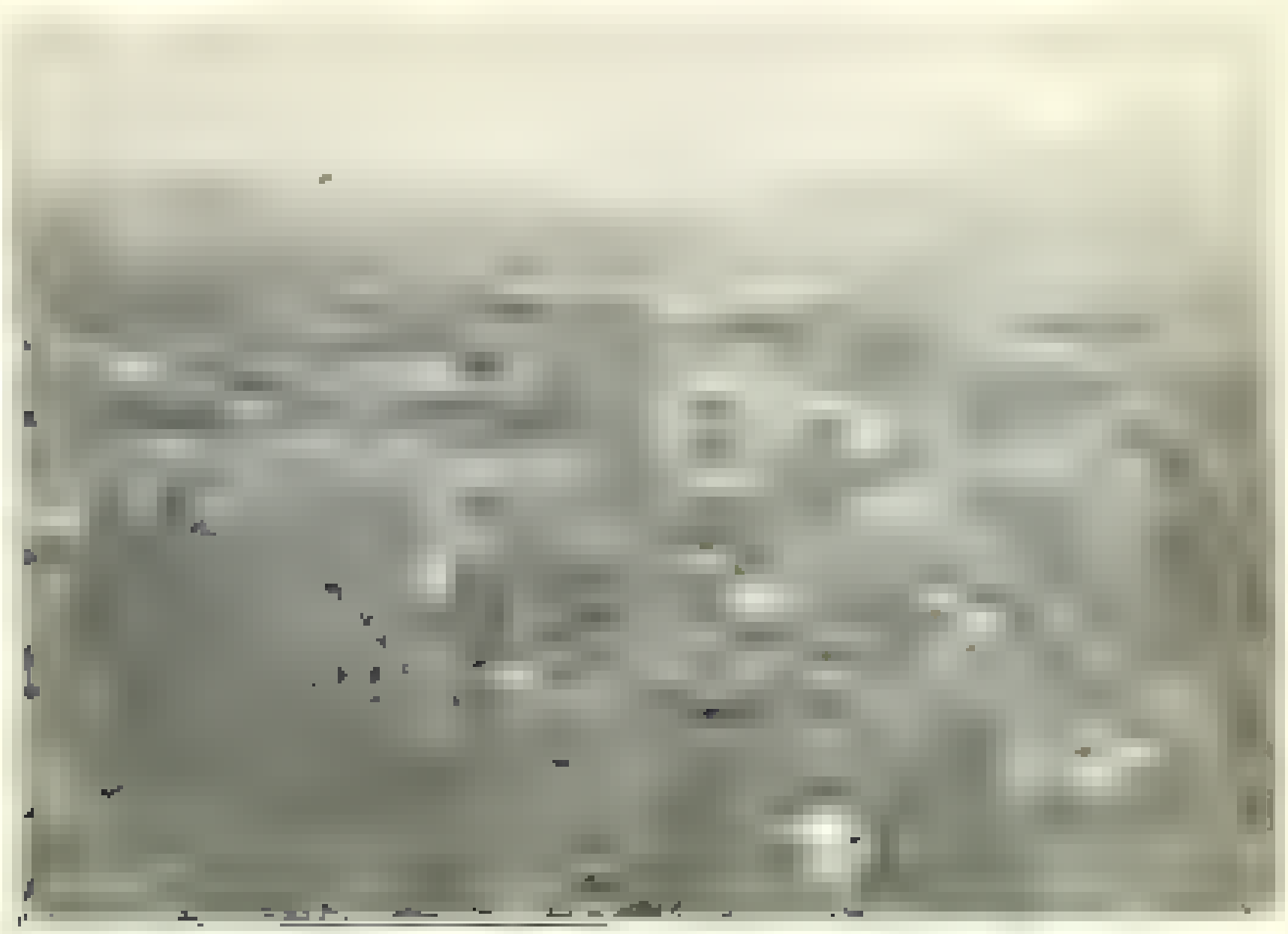

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[illegible] Population of the Southern [illegible] Rivers

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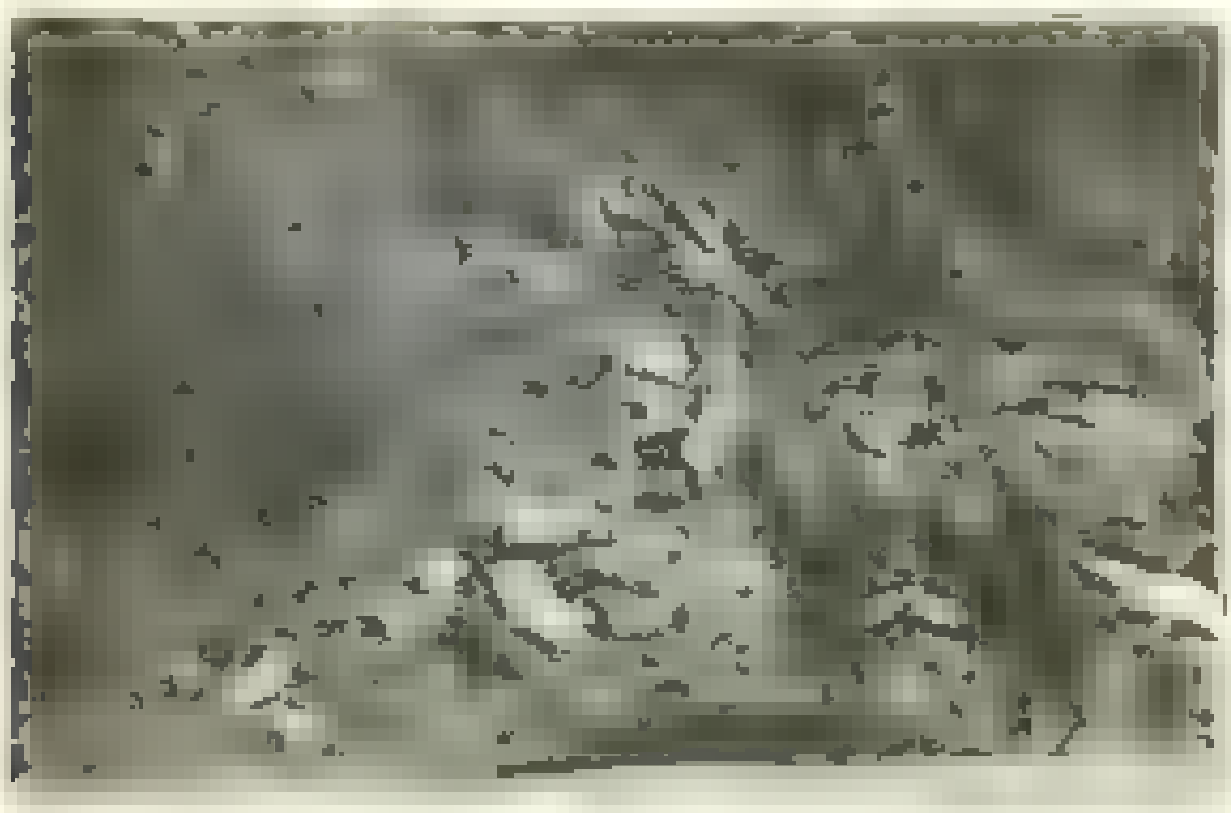

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The mountain areas present but little, if any, barren indurated rock surface, but are covered with a deep red aroumonous clay soil, to which vegetation clings tenaciously. Decay is so rapid under perpetual warmth and moisture that the volcanic rocks constituting the major area quickly rot and weather. This mountain soil is one of the most marked features of the island, and to it are largely due many of its agricultural and forestal conditions. Were it less tenacious and sticky than it is (and language can hardly convey an idea of the mortaceousness of this stickiness, which is especially disagreeable as a road material), the mountain slopes of Porto Rico would now be washed and dreary wastes of barren rock.

Owing to this soil, which clings to its framework, the mountains are cultivated to their very summits, verticality of slope presenting no obstacle to cultivation in the minds of the natives. I have seen the steepest possible slopes cultivated to the highest degree in coffee and tobacco—in fact, the most productive crops of this character are grown upon declivities upon which the American farmer would not risk the danger to life and limb.

As a result of long cultivation, much of the soil of Porto Rico is now abandoned and in the condition known throughout the English-speaking West Indies as "rainate." This has resulted from overcultivation, from the failure to apply fertilizers, and to some extent from erosion. Land of this character was observed by the writer in many parts of the island. On the north coast, in the vicinity of Río Grande and Carolina, ruins were seen of what were once houses of extensive sugar estates, the former fields being grown up in grass. In the western part of the island, in the high summit region seen in passing from Adjuntas to Lares, many abandoned fields were observed, which are now entirely denuded of trees and cultivated crops. Considerable areas of rainate were also observed on the south coast, between Juana Díaz and Ponce. The reclamation of these lands by forestization or other methods of scientific agriculture is one of the problems which Porto Rico presents to the civilization of its new owners.

The climate of Porto Rico is being well studied upon the ground by Professor Mark W. Harrington, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and I shall not attempt to describe it other than to state a few facts concerning its bearing upon the distribution of life and culture. Professor Harrington has already published many

new and interesting facts concerning the climate and its local variation, which will be mentioned in a future article.

The whole island may be divided into a wet and a dry belt, on the north and south sides of the central Cordillera, respectively. The greatest rainfall, which sometimes attains 120 inches a year on the slopes of El Yunque, is at the northeast end. On the south side, from Guayama to Cabo Rojo, the region is dryer, but the whole island is wet in comparison with the standard of the United States. The higher mountains are slightly cooler than the coast belt, but the temperature is so uniformly warm that altitude has but little bearing upon distribution of vegetation. The mountains are constantly bathed in moisture, either by daily rainfalls or dense mists which collect upon them at night, except upon the lower portion of their southern slopes; hence it may be said that the superficies is never dry and the subsoil is constantly saturated in the mountain region.

On the southern coast, however, owing both to the porosity of the limestone, which quickly drains off the moisture, and the generally dryer climate, the surface above has a parched and arid look, especially in the long dry season. Some portions of this south belt are very arid, and great complaint was heard upon the island in places that the rainfall for the past two years had been insufficient for domestic supply. In fact, in order to cultivate the staple crops of the lowlands of the south coast, irrigation is necessary and is practiced with great skill and at considerable cost along the whole southern border from Guayama to Cabo Rojo.

In a subsequent article I shall set forth the economic geography of the island, and show the intimate relation which exists between the configuration and geology, which I have described, and the vegetal conditions—the agricultural, hygienic, and commercial capacities.

NOTE.—In order to meet the wishes of the author, the name of this island treated in the foregoing article is spelled in the form commonly used in England and the United States. The form "Puerto Rico" is that commonly used by the people of the island itself and by those of other Spanish-speaking countries, and is good Spanish. It is therefore adopted by the U. S. Board on Geographic Names in accordance with the logical principle of adopting for other countries the names by which they are known to those in their own jurisdictions. The editors wish it to be understood that in according to Mr. Hill's request in this trifling matter they are not establishing a precedent.

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